

BAe & BAC Retired Management Staff Association

# NEWSLETTER

No.37 SPRING 95

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## CHRISTMAS LUNCH 1994 AN OCCASION TO REMEMBER

As usual the 1994 Christmas Lunch was attended to capacity and the decorated Ballroom at BAWA did justice to the festive season. Good to see so many old faces at the function and yet new faces there were in plenty reflecting our increasing and widening Membership.

Those unable to attend this year included Russ, Ray Westerway, John Bendy, George Bishop, John Dickens and Jack Jefferies.

The change to waitress service in place of the "buffet grab" was welcomed as it resulted in a much more sedate and enjoyable environment for the occasion allowing guests to concentrate on the chat - of which there was no shortage at all as usual.

In a quieter moment Chairman Bob Hewitt welcomed all the guests and proposed a toast to absent friends. Bob gave a short review of the activities of RMSA over the past year and some of the factors that could be the subject of concern in the future. (see Chairmans Chat in this issue)

Bob introduced our guest Mr Paul Barrington who is Company Pensions Manager at Filton. In thanking RMSA for the invitation, he accepted that all communications between retirees and the Company could be improved and Pensions were a common point.

He praised recent efforts by the RMSA through newsletters and the Pensions sub committee. Things were moving and in future the RMSA will be represented at meetings of the Business Pensions Consultative Committee.

Paul Barrington was well received by all Members present and we all hoped that at long last a small beginning had been made towards some form of two way dialogue with the Company on pension matters.

It was a successful social occasion and judging by the people still in the hall at 4 pm. it was very much enjoyed by all. Thanks must go to our Social Secretary Dave Welsford for putting it all together so effectively.

Same again next year Dave ?

## OBITUARY

It is with sadness that we learn of the death of **Jack Church**.

Many Members will remember Jack from his days both at Fairford and Filton as Quality Control Superintendent.

We extend our sympathy to Mrs Church and the family.

## RMSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BAWA BALLROOM

FILTON

10 AM Friday

24TH MARCH 1995

This is both an important occasion for the Association and also an opportunity to meet old friends. We hope you will all make a special effort to attend. Details of Arrangements Agenda and Balance Sheet are attached to this issue.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

1995

Members are reminded that Subscriptions for 1995 became due on January 1st and are payable to our Treasurer. Reg Hurd's address is on the front sheet of the Newsletter.

Prompt payment saves us the task of giving those inevitable little reminders later in the year. So there is still chance for a New Year Resolution and make Reg's day.

Subs remain £2.00 for Members, £1.00 for Associates and £10.00 for Life Members (70 yr. and over).

Should you intend to pay at the AGM then cheques only please to "BAe & BAC Retired Management Staff Association" presented preferably before the start of the meeting.

## CHAIRMANS CHAT

Welcome to 1995 and I hope it will be a healthy and happy one for you all.

Following 1994 it looks like being a very busy one on the Pensions Law front. The proposed new Bill to come before Parliament appears to be very much biased towards employers.

However with your letters to MP's, the lobbying of Parliamentary Committees by COPAS and the Campaign for Pension Fund Democracy we hope suitable amendments will be forthcoming to protect pensioners rights.

Fortunately our Scheme is one of the better ones but it is not top of the league and the spectre of Maxwell still haunts the pensions scene. More action is expected in the next few months

Over the past year there have been major improvements in communications with the Company and with other BAe pensioners both locally and nationally.

We now meet the Company locally on a formal basis and new BAe Pensioner organisations are being formed around the country. The recently formed association at Weybridge has now a membership exceeding ours.

Our Membership continues to grow although we hear of the passing of old colleagues only too often. Sadly we heard recently of the passing of Mike Virgon who made a significant contribution to electrical standards and the tragic passing off Ron Crouch following a road accident. Both will be missed by their ex-GW colleagues.

The Bristol Aero Collection is receiving more relics and have retrieved some items from Filton House with the co-operation of the Company

I look forward to meeting Members again this year both at the AGM and at the Association's social events.

## SUMMER OUTING 1995

The Summer Outing this year will be on Thursday 7th September - the destination yet to be decided.

The day will as usual have the option of a sit down supper in the BAWA Conference Room on our return to Filton.

Dave Welsford will be able give more details at the AGM and full details will be given in the Summer Issue of Newsletter.

## UPDATE

The next meeting of the Business Centre Pensions Consultative Committee will be in early February at Chester when Frank Webb of our Pensions Sub Committee will represent the RMSA and also the Filton Tuesday Club.

The Sub Committee will take part in the next local meeting with the Filton Pensions Manager Mr Paul Barrington at the end of February. It is hoped we can report on both these meetings at the AGM.

Kevin Cheverton continues to dispense wisdom and advice at the Company's pre retirement seminars on behalf of the RMSA (and no doubt a positive influence on recruitment)

We continue to support the activities of COPAS who are concentrating their efforts in the run up to the new Bill reaching the Commons. This was summarised in our Special Newsletter in December last year.

As a follow up to this the Committee has written to local Conservative Party Chairmen who support local MP's, voicing our concern and frustration.

## NEW MEMBERS

Our Association has gained 14 new Members since the Autumn Newsletter making our total membership 525. We welcome you all to the Association and hope to see you at the AGM where you can enjoy a trip back in time. I

<b>John Morris</b>	Weight Dept CAD Airbus
<b>Harry Galliver</b>	DEO CAD Airbus
<b>Peter Walker</b>	Stress Office B49 CAD Airbus
<b>Peter Rose</b>	Chief Inspector Space Systems
<b>Trevor Evans</b>	Structures Lab CAD
<b>John Snee</b>	Structure Technology CAD Airbus
<b>Trevor Vincent</b>	Chief Inspector CAD Airbus
<b>Geoff Stubbings</b>	Interior Design CAD
<b>Geoff Payne</b>	Machine Shop G&T Design CAD
<b>Tom Knight</b>	Quality Control Dynamics
<b>Marmaduke Alderson</b>	Resources CAD Airbus
<b>Tony Evans</b>	DEO CAD Airbus
<b>Reg Astbury</b>	Dynamics
<b>Tom Markham</b>	Adv Projects CAD Airbus

## FLYING IN MINIATURE

BY  
RAY FOOT

In response to the requests from your good Editor for contributions to the Newsletter I thought that some of you might be interested to hear about my favourite hobby - Aeromodelling. "Oh dear " I hear you exclaim "overgrown schoolboys playing with toy aeroplanes !"

Well overgrown schoolboys we may well be but the types of miniature aircraft that we build and fly are anything but toys and can require almost as much research and development, size for size as their full-size counterparts.

The models we fly range from free flight types built from carbon fibre and Kevlar weighing only a few grammes, to large radio controlled scale models fully detailed, powered by a gas turbine engine (yes a REAL one) and weighing more than 50 pounds.

The gas turbine engine weighs about 8 pounds and develops around 30 pounds of thrust at 100,000 r.p.m. and currently runs on propane - although newer designs are running quite happily on aviation kerosene.

I used to belong to the "free flight" brigade, flying the lightweight models which would drift off downwind - sometimes travelling for miles. In my later and less active years I find that radio controlled models suit me better as I can return them to my feet every time (well nearly every time, anyway)

Modern model designs and control systems mean that it is possible to reproduce every manoeuvre that a full size aircraft can make, and some more besides ! Of course most of these are propeller driven by a small internal combustion engine - gas turbines are likely to set you back between £5000 to £10000 per unit ! Despite this there are already a surprising number of them about.

If I have wetted your appetite and you would like to see more for yourselves then there is a major National Show held annually, within easy reach of most of you. These are the "Woodspring Weekends" held over the first weekend every July and run by the Woodspring Wings Model Aircraft Club.

"Woodspring 95" will be held on the Club's own airfield near Yatton and you will find details

of how to get there plastered all over the countryside a bit nearer the date, including AA

signs from the M5 at Clevedon, the A370 at Congresbury and on the Buses.

We have top class Model Display Pilots from all over the Country who perform twice on each day as well as a cracking Full Size Flying Display. In 1994 we had a Spitfire MkIX (Andy Sephton flying)

and two RAF Tucanos amongst those performing. We hope 1995 will be even better.

This really IS a big Show and we at Woodspring MAC are still a bit dazed by our popularity and success. If you would like to know more about the Show ring me at any time. I am always happy to answer any questions and promote our absorbing hobby. (Tel 01179 561694)

Ray Foot

### Note:

Ray is the Display Director and with several RMSA members and others have done wonders to develop this hobby locally into national status. One of our Members is an Examiner and many other Members I know share an active interest in the hobby.

The timing of our Newsletters preclude a reminder in the summer, so to the rest of you a date in your diary now should ensure a pleasant and interesting day out in July. ....Ed.

## MEMBERS FAR AWAY

I understand from Finlay Harrow that Ted Walters (ex No 8 DO) over in the States is still very active and deeply involved in what was his painting hobby but now, it would seem, more like the Art Business in LA.

We have heard also from Len Treeby and his wife Jean in Ontario, Canada and they send best wishes for the New Year to old friends and colleagues in the Association. Len is still restricted by the effects of the major surgery we reported last year, but he aims if all goes well to make a trip over here this year. Lets hope you can make it.

Phil Rose is planning a trip to New Zealand this year. Whilst there, he hopes to track down Frank Crowfoot. Give him all our regards Phil if you manage to find him ....(and also a Membership form !. . . . .Ed)

## MEMBERS CONCERN

The Committee is always pleased to receive letters drawing our attention to matters that could be of general concern to Members and to the Association.

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We refer here particularly to aspects of pensions both political and financial.

These are considered carefully in Committee and debated where appropriate. We cannot report these in detail in the Newsletter but Members may like to be aware of some of matters that have been raised in this way.

#### MINIMUM SOLVENCY REQUIREMENTS

A Member comments on the recent Government relaxation of pension fund solvency rules. Press reports suggest that there may be no agreed standard approach to assessment.

It is vital that the proposed rules do not result in a less safe situation than we have at present.

The actuaries (Godwins) should be asked how their existing methods compare with those now proposed.

The Committee is in complete agreement and shares the Member's concern. We will monitor this situation carefully through the Pensions Consultative Committee meetings.

#### POUNDSTRETCHER

A Member recalls reports last year stating the Pension Fund had purchased 25 high street shops and further reports that they were in financial difficulties.

At the AGM last year it was learnt that 8 shops had been sold at a profit. What, asks our Member, is the true position on the other 17?

We would all like to know and we will try to find out through the local meetings.

#### ADDED YEARS

The injustices on Added Years mentioned by a Member is accepted by the Committee. This is a matter which has been raised repeatedly with the Company. It is accepted by them as an anomaly at the top of the list but inevitably raises the difficulties in funding.

We will continue to press the matter through our contact with the Company.

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lower floors which were partitioned to provide a kitchen, cellars, bedrooms for the hotel staff. Accommodation was provided for the D.O. Manager Freddie MacLoughlin and his wife, the caretaker and the Fire Officer a Major Muller.

There was a print room, photographic room and a room for the typing pool. On the second lower floor was the strong room and Ballroom which around 20 draughtsmen were accommodated.

There are many amusing stories to tell from the time at the Walton Park Hotel but remember they took place over four years during which we worked long and hard for the war effort.

### The WALTON PARK HOTEL

## CLEVEDON

from 'THE WAR YEARS'

by CHARLIE ROWE

Towards the end of November 1940 the main DO was moved from Filton to the Walton Park Hotel, Clevedon right on the coastline of the Bristol Channel.

Other places of dispersal were Clevedon Hall, the tea rooms at Clifton Zoo, the Swimming Bath in Worrall Road Clifton which had been floored over. Ivor House on Durdham Down was the Head Office for design, projects, the Chief Designer and Chief Draughtsman etc.

I joined them at the Walton Park Hotel continuing to work on modifications to Blenheim, Beaufort, and Beaufighter aircraft.

The evacuation to Walton Park was a big exercise. A strong room had been built in the lower floor to store master drawings. Drawing boards with angle lamps had all been installed.

We were the first of around 100 draughtsmen to arrive and we were surprised to find on our arrival the hotel staff all lined up to welcome us - the head waiter in dinner jacket and the waitresses in uniform. Tea was served to us in the Ballroom using the hotel silver. This was in sharp contrast to enamel mugs and urns back at Filton.

We occupied the Walton Park Hotel from Nov 1940 until 1944. Most of the time I was fortunate to work in the front of the hotel with a sea view. I spent a short time in the bar - closed for the duration naturally!

The hotel had five floors. The ground floor consisted of an entrance hall and a large lounge where I had my board in the window, a large dining room which we used for meals and a large cocktail lounge.

On the road side of the building was the manageress's office, billiard room with table but still space for seven draughtsmen: a small dining room and the public bar.

On the first and second floors were bedrooms all occupied by draughtsmen. There were also two